



# Common Questions about Water Pressure

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Water pressure in your home or business is one of the most common questions answered by Water Resources staff. Here are some answers to some of the most common questions.

**Q: What is the average water pressure in Scottsdale?**

**A:** Water pressure varies throughout the city due to different elevations. The lowest elevation is approximately 1,100 feet in the southern part of the city to over 3,000 feet in the northern areas. Water Resources provides water pressure in our drinking water system that ranges between 40 psi to about 120 psi. Because of the different elevations, it is not feasible to provide a constant psi in every part of the city.

**Q: How can I find out what my water pressure is?**

**A:** Water Resources Water Services department has water pressure gauges that can be checked out, free of charge. You can also purchase one from a home improvement or hardware store. To check out a water pressure gauge, please stop by our offices between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. at 9312 N. 94<sup>th</sup> Street, a few blocks south of Via Linda.

**Q: Why does my water pressure fluctuate?**

**A:** Low water pressure or fluctuating water pressure may have a variety of causes. The most common cause is typically from high water demand periods which are typically between 7 to 9 a.m. and 4 to 7 p.m. every day. To help reduce fluctuating water pressure at your home or business, we recommend scheduling your outdoor watering times during off-peak times.

Other causes of changes in water pressure could be the result of:

- A break in a nearby water line can also cause changes in your water pressure. Typically, Water Service crews will have to shut down or bypass a water line to make repairs. Occasionally, this may result in a temporary interruption in your water service. Reducing the pressure in nearby water lines also helps crews make repairs faster and avoids potential damage to the city's water system or property where the break occurred.
- Fluctuating pressure may also have to do with your home's pressure regulating valve (PRV). This valve protects your home's plumbing from failing if there are extreme changes in water pressure and is required on all new buildings since 1995. If your home or business was built before 1995 and your water pressure is consistently 80 psi or higher, we encourage you to consider installing a PRV to help protect your plumbing by a licensed plumber.

Over time, PRV's can get stuck open or closed which can also vary water pressure. A licensed plumber can evaluate your PRV.

- Other possible causes for fluctuating water pressure may be from an appliance such as a water softening device. If you are experiencing changes in your water pressure, the first step is to check your water pressure at the hose bib located at the front of your house. If there is good pressure at this location, it is likely due to an appliance that uses water to operate. We suggest bypassing this appliance and then re-checking your water pressure. If the pressure resumes after bypassing this appliance, you are encouraged to contact the installation company for maintenance.